Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1239
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSIONNATO

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: CSCE

SUBJECT: BELGRADE CSCE MEETING: LETTERS TO DELEGATION FROM PUBLIC

REF: BELGRADE 4239 (NOTAL)

DEPARTMENT FOR EUR/RPM, EUR/SOV

FROM USDEL CSCE

SUMMARY: IN FIRST TWO WEEKS OF BELGRADE CSCE PREPARATORY MEETING, USDEL HAS BEEN RECEIVING ON AVERAGE 3-4 LETTERS OR TELEGRAMS DAILY FROM PRIVATE PERSONS AND GROUPS. MOST DESCRIBE EITHER A HUMANITARIAN PROBLEM OF THEIR OWN OR A VIEWPOINT ABOUT HUMAN OR POLITICAL RIGHTS SITUATIONS IN SOVIET UNION OR EASTERN EUROPE WHICH THEY WISH USDEL TO ESPOUSE DURING CONFERENCE. WHILE THERE IS LITTLE THAT WE CAN DIRECTLY DO FOR SUCH PETITIONERS, THEY PROVIDE INDICATION OF MANNER IN WHICH U.S. APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS AT CSCE HAS CAUGHT POPULAR IMAGINATION. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT CONFIDENTIAL

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TO DEMONSTRATE THAT WE ARE PAYING ATTENTION TO WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING; AND WE ARE ATTEMPTING, THEREFORE, TO SCREEN OUT CRACKPOTS OR POLITICAL EXTREMISTS AND TO PROVIDE POLITE RESPONSES TO AS MANY OF OTHERS AS POSSIBLE.

END SUMMARY.

1. ONE OF LARGEST CATEGORIES OF CORRESPONDENTS IS GERMANS OR REFUGEES IN FRG WHO REQUEST USDEL'S HELP IN PLEADING FAMILY REUNIFICATION CASES WITH GDR, ROMANIA, OR SOVIET UNION. IN SOME CASES THESE PEOPLE SEEM TO HAVE WRITTEN ALSO TO FRG AND EASTERN EUROPEAN DELS; IN OTHER CASES LETTERS ARE ADDRESSED PURELY

TO AMBASSADOR. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO RESPOND TO SUCH INQUIRIES BY EXPRESSING SYMPATHY AND PROVIDING BRIEF GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF HOW WE INTEND TO WORK AT BELGRADE FOR A THOROUGH REVIEW OF IMPLEMENTATION RECORD IN ORDER, HOPEFULLY, TO ENCOURAGE BETTER PERFORMANCE BY ALL SIGNATORIES OF THEIR HELSINKI COMMITMENTS BUT ADDING CAUTION THAT CSCE, REALISTICALLY SPEAKING, IS A LONG TERM PROCESS.

2. WE WILL BE SENDING SIMILAR REPLIES TO LETTERS FROM AMERICANS, NUMBER OF WHOM IDENTIFY THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND WHO USE IDENTICAL INCORRECT FIRST NAME FOR AMBASSADOR, THUS SUGGESTING THAT AMNESY MAY BE INITIATING A WRITE-IN CAMPAIGN.

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- 3. A NUMBER OF ORGANIZATIONS, INCLUDING HANNS-SEIDEL STIFTUNG IN MUNICH AND APPARENLYY CALIFORNIA-BASED FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, HAVE SENT US SUBSTANTIAL PACKETS OF INFORMATION ON SYMPOSIA ABOUT DETENTE AND HUMAN RIGHTS POLITICS OR RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION IN SOVIET UNION AND ROMANIA. WE WILL THANK THEM AND PROMISE TO STUDY MATERIAL WITH INTEREST.
- 4. WE ALSO HAVE BEEN RECEIVING FAIRLY SUBSTANTIAL MAILINGS FROM EMIGRE GROUPS CONCERNED WITH YUGOSLAV POLITICS, INCLUDING CROATION PEASANT PARTY AND CROATION CATHOLIC UNION. THSES OBJECT TO SUPPORT FOR TITO OR ANTI-CROATION POSITION WHICH DECISION TO HOLD CSCE MEETING IN BELGRADE ALLEGEDLY IMPLIES. WE DO NOT INTEND TO RESPOND TO THESE LETTERS THOUGH WE WILL PROVIDE POLITE FORM RESPONSE TO SAGINAW, MICHIGANBASED PRESIDENT OF SLOVAK CATHOLIC FEDERATION WHO ASKED CSCE SIGNATORIES TO PRFOS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA.
- 5. WE HAVE RECEIVED ONLY A FEW COMMUNICATIONS THUS

FAR WHICH CRITICIZE WESTERN IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. A PARMA, OHIO RESIDENT, WHO COPIED HIS LETTER TO SOVIET AND CZECH DELS, HAS WRITTEN TO URGE THAT U.S. CLEAN UP OWN HOUSE BEFORE TALKING ABOUT HUMAN RIGHTS PROBLEMS IN EASTERN EUROPE. WE WILL RESPOND

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TO HIM THAT WE DO NOT CLAIM PERFECT RECORD FOR U.S. BUT FAVOR FRANK DISCUSSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD OF ALL FINAL ACT SIGNATORIES. A JEWISH REFUGEE FROM SOVIET UNION NOW LIVING IN ISRAEL HAS SENT US COPY OF LETTER IN WHICH HE EXPLAINS HE HOPES INS WILL REVERSE DECISION TO REFUSE HIM U.S. IMMIGRATION VISA. WE DO NOT PLAN TO RESPOND TO THIS INQUIRY BECAUSE IT ASKS NOTHING OF US, AND WRITER'S MAIN COMPLAINTS SEEM TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST ISRAEL. WE ALSO DO NOT PLAN TO RESPOND LONDON RESIDENT WHO ASKS FOR INTERVENTION WITH UK WHICH ALLEGEDLY DEPRIVED HIM OF RIGHT TO SEE HIS CHILD 21 YEARS AGO AND WITH "U.S. JEWISH FIRM" WHICH IS SUPPOSED TO HAVE CHEATED HIM ON BOOK COMMISSIONS.

6. WE HAVE RECEIVED SEVERAL PETITIONS DELIVERED INITIALLY TO OTHER U.S. EMBASSIES. WARSAW 4259 TRANSMITS TEXT OF PETITION FROM POLISH WORKERS' DEFENSE COMMITTEE, AND TEL AVIV 4270 TRANSMITS PETITION FROM ALIYA ACTIVISTS GROUP ON BEHALF OF SOVIET JEWS. WE DO NOT PLAN SEPARATE RESPONSES TO THESE GROUPS SINCE

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EMBASSIES WARSAW AND TEL AVIV HAVE ALREADY RESPONDED TO PRIMARY REQUEST BY SENDING ON PETITIONS AND BECAUSE IN FORMER CASE AT LEAST RESPONSE COULD BECOME SENSITIVE POLITCAL MATTER.

7. OTHER TYPES OF COMMUNICATIONS TO WHICH WE DO NOT INTEND TO RESPOND INCLUDE LETTERS FORWARDED TO US FOR INFORMATION WHICH HAVE ALREADY BEEN ACTED UPON WITHIN USG (FOR EXAMPLE, MATERIAL FROM U.S. CITIZEN OF YUGOSLAV ORIGIN ASKING FOR HELP IN GIVING UP YUGOSLAV CITIZENSHIP WHO PROVIDED COPY OF RESPONSE HE RECEIVED FROM D/HA); ECCENTRIC INQUIRIES, SUCH AS WEST GERMAN WTO HAS ASKED FOR OUR HELP IN RESOLVING DIFFICULTIES WITH BADENWUERTEMBERG WHICH INCLUDE THAT LAND'S ALLEGED REFUSAL TO PROVIDE HIM WITH CERTIFICATE OF DISCHARGE FROM WORLD WAR II WEHRMACHT; ADN INQUIRIES THAT SIMPLY SEEM MISADDRESSED SUCH AS LETTER FROM ORGANIZATION OF PATRIOTIC VIETNAMESE ABROAD, LOCATED IN ZURICH, WHICH REQUESTS THAT WE RAISE COMPLAINTS AGAINST NORTH VIETNAM AT BELGRADE.

8. YUGOSLAV SECRETARIAT IS GIVING MAIL ADDRESSED TO DELEGATIONS IN CARE OF OBFERENCE CENTER A SECURITY CHECK. TO BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, HOWEVER, SECRETARIAT IS MAKING GOOD ON ITS PROMISE TO DELIVER ALL MAIL ADDRESSED TO DELEGATIONS, INCLUDING LETTERS FROM CROATION GROUPS WHICH ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO YUGOSLAV POLICIES. SHERER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: SECURITY, PLANNING MEETINGS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, MILITARY PLANS, PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE, MEETING

DELEGATIONS Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE

Sent Date: 28-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am

Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009

Disposition Date: 22 Ma Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason: Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1977BELGRA04355 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Expiration:

Film Number: D770231-0329

Format: TEL From: BELGRADE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1 Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770612/aaaaajxm.tel

Line Count: 206 Litigation Code IDs:

Litigation Code ios. Litigation Codes: Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 6336da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 77 BELGRADE 4239 Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED

Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a Review Transfer Date: Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2014501 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: BELGRADE CSCE MEETING: LETTERS TO DELEGATION FROM PUBLIC TAGS: PARM, PGOV, ZM, US, CSCE

To: STATE Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/6336da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc Review Markings:

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